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Letter dated 16 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué issued in English and French of the ninety-second ordinary session at the ambassadorial level of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held at Addis Ababa, on 12 and 13 June 2003, containing decisions on the following:

- The peace process in the Sudan.
- The peace process in Somalia.
- The situation in Mauritania.
- The situation in Liberia.
- The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dumisani Shadrack **Kumalo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations
Representative of the Current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 16 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the ninety-second ordinary session at the ambassadorial level of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (Addis Ababa, 12 and 13 June 2003)

The Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 92nd Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 12 – 13 June 2003. The session took place under the chairmanship of Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the African Union.

The Central Organ considered the Reports of the Interim Chairperson on the Peace Processes in The Sudan and Somalia and exchanged views on the situations in Mauritania, Liberia and the DRC.

Following its deliberations, the Central Organ takes the following decisions:

ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN SUDAN

1. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the Sudan peace process, under the auspices of IGAD, and **COMMENDS** the Government of Kenya and its Special Envoy, Lt. Gen. Lazarus K. Sumbeiywo, for their efforts in facilitating the negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A);

2. **APPEALS** to both parties to continue display the necessary spirit of accommodation so that a lasting solution could be found to the conflict in the Sudan. In this regard, the Central Organ **COMMENDS** both President Omar Hassan El Bashir and Dr. John Garang for their determination to maintain the momentum towards reaching a comprehensive peace agreement;

3. **EXPRESSES** satisfaction at the full involvement of the AU Commission in the Sudan peace process, through the Interim Chairperson's Special Envoy, Ambassador Baba Gana Kingibe, and at the measures taken by the Commission to increase its support to the IGAD Secretariat for Peace in the Sudan;

4. **WELCOMES** the adoption by the Parties during the Fifth Session of the Political Committee Task Force (PCTF), held in Nairobi, from 7 to 21 May 2003, the Verification and Monitoring Teams Tasking Procedures, within the framework of the Addendum of 4 February 2003 to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cessation of Hostilities of 15 October 2002. In this respect, the Central Organ

SUPPORTS the participation of the AU in the work of the Verification Monitoring Team and **REQUESTS** the Interim Chairperson to take all steps required to this end;

5. **NOTES** with satisfaction the contribution of the Observer Nations to the Sudan Peace talks in pursuit of a lasting peace in the Sudan and **APPEALS** to the International Community at large to provide the necessary resources for post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN SOMALIA

The Central Organ:

1. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the Somalia reconciliation process and **ENCOURAGES** the parties to pursue their efforts aimed at achieving lasting peace and reconciliation;

2. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the IGAD Frontline States i.e. Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti for their sustained involvement and **ENCOURAGES** them to pursue their efforts with greater cohesion to facilitate the swift conclusion of the Mbagathi Conference;

3. **WELCOMES** the dispatch of the Joint Technical IGAD-AU Fact-finding Mission to Somalia from 22 May to 2 June 2003, and **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations made by the Mission as reflected in the Report of the Interim Chairperson on the peace process in Somalia;

4. **EXPRESSES** the readiness of the African Union to play the role expected of it in the establishment of a mechanism to monitor the cessation of hostilities in Somalia, including the deployment of an AU Observer Mission in Somalia;

5. **REQUESTS** the Interim Chairperson of the Commission to undertake the necessary consultations with IGAD and the Somali parties towards the establishment of such a mechanism;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Interim Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary steps for the mobilization of the financial and other resources required for the establishment of the envisaged mechanism;

7. **APPEALS** to AU Member States and AU partners to extend the necessary support to the Commission in the establishment of the mechanism for the monitoring of cessation of hostilities in Somalia;

8. **FURTHER APPEALS** to AU Member States and to the international community at large to provide the necessary resources to sustain the reconciliation process in Somalia.

ON THE SITUATION IN MAURITANIA

The Central Organ:

1. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the attempted coup d'etat which took place in Mauritania on 8 June 2003, and which is in flagrant contradiction with the principles enunciated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union as well as relevant declarations and decisions of the African Union;

2. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to the Algiers Decision and the Lomé Declaration on the Unconstitutional Changes of Government and its absolute rejection of any attempt to take power by force or by any other unconstitutional means;

3. **EXPRESSES** satisfaction that constitutional order has been restored and appeals to the people of Mauritania to continue to respect the constitutional order and uphold democratic principles.

ON THE SITUATION IN LIBERIA

The Central Organ:

1. **WELCOMES** the holding of the Liberian Peace Talks in Akosombo, Ghana, between the Government of Liberia and the LURD and MODEL, under the auspices of ECOWAS and the Mediator, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, former Head of State of Nigeria;

2. **EXPRESSES** its grave concern at the extremely worrisome humanitarian situation in Monrovia and all other areas of Liberia, as a result of fighting in recent times;

3. **URGES** all sides in the Liberian conflict to speedily agree to a ceasefire within the framework of the ongoing talks at Akosombo, in order to open the way for the achievement of a definitive and comprehensive peace settlement for Liberia;

4. **URGES FURTHER** all sides to give unrestricted and early access to humanitarian agencies to all area of Liberia affected by the conflict.

ON THE SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Central Organ,

1. **EXPRESSES** its concern at the serious security and humanitarian situation in the Ituri region, particularly in Bunia and its environs, and **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the massacres of civilian populations and the numerous violations of human which have been committed there;

2. **CALLS** on all the Parties to the conflict in Ituri, to put an end to the hostilities and to immediately implement the Cease-fire Agreements signed on 18 March and 16 May 2003 in Bunia and Dar-es-Salaam respectively and **URGES** the countries of the region to actively assist in putting an end to the supply and equipment in arms, ammunitions, and logistical means to militias and armed groups in the area;

3. **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the Ituri Pacification Commission (IPC) as the appropriate framework for bringing peace and security in the area and for promoting confidence and reconciliation between the Parties to the conflict, and **URGES** the Congolese parties to put among their priorities, the reestablishment of security in Ituri;

4. **WELCOMES** the adoption of resolution 1484 on 30 May 2003, by the United Nations Security Council, in which the Council decides under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, to deploy in Bunia, an urgent multinational interim force to contribute to the stabilization of the security condition and to improve the humanitarian situation in the town;

5. **RECOMMENDS** that the mandate of the force be extended to the disarmament of armed groups and the demobilization of child soldiers;

6. **REQUESTS** all Parties to the conflict as well as the countries of the region to cooperate with the Force and to give it the necessary support to ensure the success of its mission;

7. **REQUESTS ALSO** the Member States of the African Union and the rest of the international community to contribute to the reinforcement of the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUC) with the view of replacing the Urgent Multinational Interim Force, whose mandate will expire on 1 September 2003.